



NBII Bird Conservation Node

The NBII Bird Conservation Node provides electronic access to bird population and habitat data used for bird management and conservation.

NBII Background

The National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) <www.nbii.gov> is an electronic information network that provides access to biological data and information on our nation's plants, animals, and ecosystems. Data and information maintained by federal, state, and local government agencies;

non-government organizations; and private-sector organizations are linked through the NBII gateway and made accessible to a variety of audiences including researchers, natural resource managers, decision-makers, educators, students, and other private citizens.

Implementation of the NBII is proceeding through a network of nodes that serve as interconnected entry points to the NBII and the information maintained by partners. These nodes function as fully digital, distributed, and interactive systems that focus on identifying, developing, and managing content on a defined subject area (thematic nodes) or a geographic region (regional nodes). The Bird Conservation Node is one of the NBII's thematic nodes. This node provides access to data and information in support of bird conservation across North America.

Node Focus

The main focus of the NBII Bird Conservation Node is to provide Web access to bird population and habitat data and information utilized in the management and conservation of North American birds. The node also promotes the coordination of bird information activities among organizations working toward the goal of integrated bird conservation. Rapid access to bird population and habitat data is essential for the successful implementation of bird conservation activities, since it requires an understanding of how bird populations

respond to habitats at local, regional, and continental scales. In particular, there is a need for: (1) identification and access to existing bird population data collected and maintained by government and non-government organizations; (2) improving access to existing habitat, land use, and human impact data; and (3) development of Web-based tools for the assessment

of bird population trends and measurements of bird community composition. By addressing these information needs, the Bird Conservation Node will facilitate

bird conservation planning and evaluation as well as support initiatives like the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI), a framework for collaboration among organizations interested in integrated bird conservation throughout North America.

The NBII Bird Conservation Node is based on a network of partners that provides expertise in: (1) research, monitoring, and management of bird populations and their habitats; and (2) biological information management and delivery. Node implementation is proceeding under the direction of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the USGS Center for Biological Informatics. These partners, in collaboration with other government and non-government organizations, are working together to address



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/photo by Dave Menke



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the information needs of the bird conservation community.

Products

Since its inception, the Bird Conservation Node has focused on supporting projects that identify or provide access to existing bird population data in North America. Products resulting from these efforts, and additional bird-related information resources, are accessible through the NBII Bird Conservation Node Web site <<http://birdcon.nbii.gov>>. These products include:

- ArcIMS Web mapping application for bird monitoring surveys – provides visualization of the North American Breeding Bird Survey, North American Waterbird Monitoring Database, Breeding Waterfowl Population and Habitat Survey, and Mid-winter Waterfowl Survey.
- ArcIMS Web mapping application for breeding bird atlases – provides visualization of the Maryland/DC breeding bird atlas.
- Breeding Bird Atlas Manager – an online data management system for breeding bird atlases; currently being used by Maryland/DC and Vermont breeding bird atlas projects.
- Web-based data retrieval interfaces – provide access to raw data or data summaries for:
 - o Breeding Waterfowl Population and Habitat Survey
 - o Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey
 - o Mid-winter Waterfowl Survey
 - o Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Program
 - o North American Waterbird Monitoring Database
 - o Atlantic Flyway Sea Duck Survey (in progress)
 - o Latin America and Caribbean Waterfowl Surveys (in progress)

- o Mourning Dove Call-Count Survey (in progress)
- o Northeastern State Waterfowl Breeding Population Plot Survey (in progress)
- o Woodcock Singing Ground Survey (in progress)
- Integration of analytical tools and summaries for North American Breeding Bird Survey within ArcIMS mapping application for bird monitoring surveys (in progress).
- Data exchange standard for bird monitoring databases
 - provides a common standard for interconnecting distributed bird monitoring databases in North America (in progress).

Future node efforts will be directed not only towards providing greater access to bird population data, but also increasing access to bird habitat data and promoting the development of Web-based analytical and synthesis tools that support data integration for bird conservation in North America.

Partners

The NBII Bird Conservation Node was established as a collaborative venture among organizations interested in supporting bird conservation and providing access to their bird data and information. Partnership development and coordination of bird information activities are important components of the node. To date, node partners include:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - o Division of Migratory Bird Management
 - o Division of Bird Habitat Conservation
- U.S. Geological Survey
 - o Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
 - o Center for Biological Informatics
 - o Forest Rangeland and Ecosystem Science Center
 - o Upper Midwest Environmental Science Center
- Institute for Bird Populations
- Ducks Unlimited

- Cornell Lab of Ornithology
- Maryland Ornithological Society
- Vermont Institute of Natural Science

We invite you to contact us to explore potential opportunities for collaboration.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/photo by Gary Kramer

For More Information

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Find us on the Web at:
<<http://birdcon.nbii.gov>>.